

Nothing in Motion Pictures Nor in Fiction More Surprising, More Dramatic Than the Real Life Career of This Young Adventuress



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dupe were visiting es in Scotland a e than the former her wits and re- German spies of ample. This was ss of Sutherland, t in the society of nguished Duchess that England was els of information les of women and imitatively sensed e machinations of a daughter of a family estates in any other, that e plotting ground

various quarters of London and Glasgow as gentlemen of leisure, and mingled with the habitués of clubs and important cafes, to which the influence of their employer gained them entrance. Some of the young maids who were trusted by the Duchess were given the wardrobe and equipment of ladies of fashion and began to appear among the shops and meeting places where London's professional beauties were wont to gather.

Both the maids and the butlers soon began to find just such things which their employer hoped they would find. A butler became an intimate in the gay beauty shop of Mme. Trost. A maid masquerading as an actress from France became watchful of the mysterious company which frequented the hotels and cafes of Glasgow. Mme. Trost suddenly was arrested and promptly disposed of, as were a number of men and women of her clientele—including the pretty girls who served her male patrons.

Among other evidences of German spies in London and other important cities in England discovered by these volunteer workers from the households of the Duchess of Sutherland was the large number of German-born servants serving in the homes of prominent English officials, statesmen and important social leaders. It was an employee of the Duchess who discovered a German Secret Service agent acting as butler in the home of the then Premier Asquith, where he could gain first-hand information of the most important of England's war secrets by being observing. The Duchess learned enough of Germany's success in planting her spies in official households, through her own loyal servants, to cause a general movement among the aristocracy and official families to earn the discharge of all foreign servants.

It was a French maid who had been closely attached to the Duchess at her town house who discovered and suspected Mme. Storch in Glasgow. This maid often had visited the little shop where Mme. Hesqueth received donations for the comfort kits of soldiers, in com-

pany with her mistress, who had been interested in the venture of the supposed patriotic young widow. When the maid saw Mme. Storch, whom she had seen in London as Mme. Hesqueth, in the company of the colonel, whom she also recognized, in Glasgow, she became suspicious. She had already learned enough, by a clever interest in the strangers who made that city their headquarters, to assure her that German agents were all around her.

The maid reported her suspicions to her mistress. There was a quiet investigation by the Duchess herself. One morning a squad of soldiers took position in the hotel corridor outside the colonel's apartments, while the squad leader rapped on the door.

The colonel was taken before a court martial. He pleaded that if he had been indiscreet he had had been merely the victim of his pretty charmer's kisses. He was promptly cashiered from the army in disgrace, his military career ended forever.

Mme. Storch was taken to London, where she was imprisoned. She was quickly identified as the Mme. Storch who had been installed in Paris by her German masters and who so narrowly escaped a trial in France after her arrest at Toledo, Spain. The French authorities asked that she be turned over to them that they might deal with her in Paris, and, through her, possibly learn something of the powerful ring of German spies which was active at the French capital, but as

concealment, whether in Germany or elsewhere, is not known. The Count de Clermont, Mme. Nix, who has been described by the Department of Justice as a German "spy paymaster" in this country, and the infatuated Count de Beville were in London at the time of Mme. Storch's arrest. They, too, escaped. It was not until the Fall of 1915 that Mme. Storch again appeared in public. This time it was at San Juan, the harbor in Porto Rico where a number of German ships were interned, and where their crews and officers were celebrating their temporary idleness by enjoying the somewhat bizarre life of the exotic little city.

It was known even then that San Juan was the headquarters of German agents assigned to the task of spreading propaganda on both American continents. It was from San Juan, it has since been learned, that German agents in Mexico received their instructions.

Mme. Storch entered Porto Rico by use of a passport procured for her by the now notorious Captain Ladeaux. It was one of the famous "mauve" passports, which this chief of a department of the French Secret Service issued for Mata-Hari, Susy Depsy and others of Germany's band of spies, as has been previously related.

Among the interned Germans at San Juan were many officers of the Kaiser's navy. Some of these were of great importance in the Prussian "special foreign service." There also gathered there a numerous company of prosperous, plotting Germans from every country in South America, as well as from the United States.

The Counts de Beville and Clermont and Mme. Nix soon joined Mme. Storch in San Juan. They remained in the island colony for several months, apparently preparing Mme. Storch for those missions which were later to take her into the United States proper. Here the spy learned what she referred to as "the American way of looking at things."

It is certain Mme. Storch was supplied again with funds which represented a fortune. She spent lavishly in entertaining the German "citizens" of the different American nations who had assembled in Porto Rico. She easily learned, in the intimacies of her unconventional gayeties, which of these Germans were to be trusted, and how far. From them she learned, too, where her sinister efforts could be centered later on to the best advantage for Germany.



The Duchess of Sutherland, Who Organized a Private Secret Service to Hunt German Spies in England, and Whose Operators Discovered Mme. Storch and Caused Her Arrest

yet unearthed. The Russian Legation in London also asked that the fair prisoner be given to them for deportation to Petrograd, where, it was promised by the Russians, she would promptly meet the fate of her victim, Colonel Miasoyedoff, who was hanged.

After considerable delay and due consideration of the requests of both France and Russia that Mme. Storch be turned over to them, England decided that her gravest treacheries had been consummated in Petrograd.

The records of the former Russian Embassy in London show that Mme. Storch was placed under heavy guard aboard a ship bound for Russia. But Mme. Nezie never reached the city on the Neva. In some mysterious way, which has never been explained, and probably never will be, she escaped. It is believed that the same influences in Russia which had inspired the legation at London to claim Mme. Storch were secretly acting in her behalf.

For several months Mme. Storch remained in

maelstrom. The young and vivacious Mme. Nezie was the queen of this company.

One of the "entertainments" staged by her for the pleasure of her friends, the German officers and their guests, still is talked of with never failing interest throughout the island. This was a splendid banquet at Mme. Storch's house, to which were invited the officers of the interned German ships and such other Germans as were close in Mme. Nezie's confidence.

In the centre of the room in which the affair was staged a fountain was especially constructed by order of the hostess. Before the night of the "party" arrived Mme. Nezie allowed the word to go out that one of the features of the evening would have this fountain for its background. The German officers knew what this signified and prepared for it.

In the Bacchanalian revels which are so customary in the barracks towns of Germany and Austria a fountain in the banquet room often is an important factor, especially when the feminine guests of the celebrating officers are apt to be complacent. It is the setting for a revival of one feature of the ancient "Lex Prime Noctis"—the "law of the first night"—which was one of the perquisites of the powerful nobles who held the peasantry of the Balkans, Hungary and Austria in virtual slavery. To a feast at which the fountain is to play its part the German officers and other male guests always go with gold coins, jeweled pendants and bracelets for feminine adornment in their pockets. Thus supplied, Mme. Nezie's guests gathered for her dinner entertainment.

When the merriment was at its height the charming hostess raised her wine glass and proposed a toast—"to the fountain." At once there was a great clapping of approval. The men gayly jostled each other into one adjoining room, while the young women disappeared into another.

A few minutes later, at a signal from within the banquet room, the men crowded in. They found Mme. Nezie and others of the young women who had conspired with her in preparation for this event, divested of their gowns, their bodies thinly veiled by a filmy, clinging drapery, which they held wrapped around them. They laughed with impish glee as the officers, their military decorations glittering in the mellowed lights, circled close.

Each man drew from his pocket a handful of gold coins or a jewel, held it aloft to tempt the young woman of his especial favor. If the prize pleased her she gayly nodded her head, the coins or the jewels were tossed into the fountain pool and the young woman, with a merry shriek, and, to the great amusement of the company, leaped into the pool after the tokens. She remained splashing like a frisky dryad in the water until she had been joined by all her companions.

In the days when the "law of the first night" was evoked at will by the barons of Hungary, Austria and the Balkan States the custom of the fountain was frequently celebrated among the nobles themselves when one of their number took a young woman from the peasantry, as was quite often the case. On such occasions, when the company gathered to celebrate the wedding feast was of kindred spirits, the peasant girl would be compelled to enter a fountain pool unclothed. The nobleman's guests would gather around the pool and "bid" for her by tossing into the water fat purses or flashing jewels. To that one which "bid" the most generously by tossing to her the richest gifts she would be compelled to reach her hand, that he might lift her out of the water into full view of the assembled company, with the accompanying right to claim her first caresses.

It was a barbarous custom, surpassed in its cynical disregard of womanly modesty only by the less restricted "law" which permitted the baron to arbitrarily claim the first caresses of all the peasant brides on his estate when their husbands were of their own class.

At Mme. Nezie's affair each young woman was lifted out of the fountain by the man whose gifts she had accepted by diving into the water for them.

It was a typical fete—typical of the debauching extravagance with which Germany's agents and spies spent the money with which they were so liberally supplied by mysterious sources for the spread of propaganda and the fruition of worldwide plotting in the interest of Berlin. It was not for its unrestricted hilarity alone that Mme. Nezie staged such a startling affair. To her everything that was a means to an end was justifiable, and this gay party was but a step toward her goal—success in the missions she was soon to undertake in the United States itself.

(To Be Continued Next Sunday)



Hans Lodi, the German Spy, Photographed During His Trial in England. Lodi Was Shot in the Tower of London. He Was One of Mme. Storch's Associates

Seeing no reason for discretion, Mme. Nezie allowed her "Orientalism" to exhibit itself without restraint during her stay at San Juan. She became the centre of a hilarious company. Prevented from fighting or otherwise openly working for the cause of Prussia, the interned Germans and their friends whiled away their time drinking toasts to the Kaiser and plotting the embarrassment of the United States if this country should be unable longer to keep out of the